

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 06570 131455Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 AID-05

(ISO) W

-----039516 131820Z /40

P R 131420Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4595

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, MORG, CG

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE OF ZAIRIAN ARMED
FORCES

1. SHAKE-UP OF THE COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE FORCES ARMEES
ZAIROISES (FAZ) WAS ANNOUNCED JULY 11. PRESIDENT MOBUTU, IN
ADDITION TO BEING SUPREME COMMANDER, WILL ASSUME THE POST OF
CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FAZ. AS EXPECTED (KINSHASA 6243), THE OFFICE OF
CAPTAIN GENERAL HAS BEEN ABOLISHED. THE ACTING-CAPTAIN
GENERAL, GENERAL BABIA, HAS BEEN NAMED TO THE NEW POST OF
"COORDINATOR OF THE GENERAL STAFF." HIS PROTEGE, COM. BOPEYA
LEKOBOKO, ACTING-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE (DDN), HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN THAT POST. THE PRESIDENT'S
PERSONAL MILITARY STAFF HAS BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE GENERAL STAFF.

2. THE OLD MILITARY REGIONS HAVE BEEN "ABOLISHED" AND REPLACED
BY EIGHT NEW MILITARY DISTRICTS (CIRCONSCRIPTIONS) AND THE
MILITARY DISTRICT OF KINSHASA. THESE DISTRICTS CORRESPOND TO
THE OLD MILITARY REGIONS AND THE EXISTING POLITICAL REGIONS.
THESE DISTRICT COMMANDS WILL NOT HAVE OPERATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES BUT WILL BE SIMPLY ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS;
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 06570 131455Z

THE NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT COMMANDERS ACCORDINGLY ARE
COLONELS OR LIEUTENANT COLONELS RATHER THAN GENERALS.

3. IN THE EVENT THAT MILITARY ACTIONS BECOMES NECESSARY, A
SPECIAL OPERATIONAL COMMAND TO BE CALLED A "MILITARY REGION"
WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO DIRECT FAZ UNITS IN THE FIELD. SUCH A
COMMAND HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE DEFENSE OF SHABA,

WHERE THE COMMAND STRUCTURE SET UP TO DIRECT THE SHABA OPERATIONS, HAS BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED. IT WILL BE HEADED BY GENERAL DANGA, REPLACING GENERAL SINGA, WHO RETURNS TO HIS POST AS HEAD OF THE GENDARMERIE, WHILE COLONEL SASSA MWAKA AND LT. COLONEL YEKA MANGBAU WILL REMAIN IN THEIR POSTS AS DEPUTY COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF STAFF, RESPECTIVELY. THE UNITS OF THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION ALREADY IN SHABA WILL BE PLACED UNDER THIS COMMAND, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE REMAINDER OF THE DIVISION WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO SHABA AS THEIR TRAINING PROGRESSES.

4. TWENTY-NINE SENIOR OFFICERS, INCLUDING TWO GENERALS, HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE RETIRED LIST. IN ADDITION, TWELVE SENIOR FAZ MEDICAL OFFICERS AND TWO SENIOR FAZ LEGAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND JUSTICE, RESPECTIVELY. COLONELS MAMPA AND KABWE KAPASULA WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR RANK AND DUTIES AND PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF MILITARY JUSTICE. THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED IN KINSHASA 4203, COLONEL MAMPA HAS BEEN UNDER AREST SINCE APRIL 14.

5. COMMENT: THE COMMAND CHANGES APPEAR TO CONFIRM MOBUTU'S SERIOUSNESS ABOUT REORGANIZING FAZ. THE ABOLITION OF THE OFFICE OF CAPTAIN GENERAL BOTH ELIMINATES THE CONFUSION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN THAT POSITION AND THE DDN STAFF, WHICH UNDERMINED FAZ OPERATIONS IN SHABA, AND FACILITATES THE PERMANENT REMOVAL OF THE INCOMPETENT GENERAL BUMBA FROM THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 06570 131455Z

ACCORDING TO CZAMISH, BUMBA'S DECLINING FORTUNES ARE ALSO EVIDENT IN THE RETIRED LIST WHICH IS DOMINATED BY OLD-LINE OFFICERS LOYAL TO HIM.

6. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT THE EXACT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE "COORDINATOR OF THE GENERAL STAFF" WILL BE. GENERAL BABIA'S APPOINTMENT TO THIS POSITION, NEVERTHELESS, REPRESENTS A DEFINITE PLUS FOR FAZ. BABIA, WHO IS VERY CAPABLE AND PRO-WEST IN OUTLOOK, HAS PRESSED FOR THESE CHANGES FOR SOME TIME. THE CONFIRMATION OF HIS PROTEGE, COLONEL BOPEYA, AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SHOULD GREATLY EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE GENERAL STAFF AND DDN AS THEY ADJUST TO THE NEW COMMAND STRUCTURE. ONE PROBLEM WHICH WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION BETWEEN BABIA AND BOPEYA IS THE SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED SENIOR OFFICERS TO FILL KEY STAFF POSITIONS.

7. THE REDUCTION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER WOULD APPEAR TO CONFIRM THE AUTHORITY OF THE CIVILIAN REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OVER ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AS ANNOUNCED IN MOBUTU'S JULY 1 SPEECH, AND MAY CONSEQUENTLY ASSIST THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES IN CURTAILING MILITARY ABUSE OF THE POPULATION.

8. IT IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT THAT THESE CHANGES FOLLOW
THE SPIRIT IF NOT THE LETTER OF THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD
REFORM RECOMMENDED BY THE BELGIAN MILITARY ADVISORS ATTACHED
TO THE DDN STAFF. END COMMENT
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA06570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0760
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770763/aaaaccme.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c4fb576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1880151
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REORGANIZATION OF COMMAND STRUCTURE OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, MORG, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c4fb576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009